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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9148

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 002394

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G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, PRM, IWI, NEA/RA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [PHUM](#) [KWMN](#) [SMIG](#) [KFRD](#) [ASEC](#) [PREF](#) [ELAB](#)

SUBJECT: SYRIA: ADDITIONAL INPUT FOR TRAFFICKING IN  
PERSONS REPORT

REF: A. DAM 1017

[B](#). DAM 886

[C](#). STATE 3836

[1](#). (SBU) The Syrian Ministry of Interior (MOI) responded on May 7 to Post's February 2, 2006 diplomatic note with statistics about the number of persons arrested in 2005 on charges of trafficking in persons. According to the diplomatic note, in the last nine months of 2005, authorities had arrested more than 28 persons on charges of "trafficking," including to Lebanon, Turkey, Italy and Greece. Some of the charges also involved the "trafficking" of persons from one third country to another, such as the case of a suspect charged with trafficking of Syrian citizens from Ukraine to Germany."

[2](#). (SBU) The MOI did not explain whether it had distinguished trafficking in persons from smuggling, and it has not responded to a February written request for a meeting.  
JOHNSON-CASARES